

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested in view of this amendment and the following reasons. By this amendment, claim 10 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 12-17 are pending in this application.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite the present subject matter more clearly. Support for these features may be found at least in paragraph [0007] of the present application as published. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the above amendments introduce no new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because it (a) places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner because similar subject matter was previously considered by the Examiner and thus further consideration and/or search by the Examiner is not warranted; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. For at least these reasons, entry of the present Amendment is therefore respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Objection

In the Office Action, claims 12 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a

rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 12 and 13 have not been amended because Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12 and 13 depend from allowable base claim 10, which has been amended, as noted above, and are allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 12 and 13.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,572,288 issued to Kinley ("Kinley") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,369,579 issued to Anderson ("Anderson").

To establish an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), four factual inquiries must be examined. The four factual inquiries include (a) determining the scope and contents of the prior art; (b) ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims in issue; (c) resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art; and (d) evaluating evidence of secondary consideration. *Graham v. John Deere*, 383 U.S. 1, 17-18 (1966). In view of these four factors, the analysis supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be made explicit, and should "identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the [prior art] elements" in the manner claimed. *KSR Int'l. Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007). Furthermore, even if the prior art may be combined, there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and the reference or references, when combined, must disclose

or suggest all of the claim limitations. See *in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Within this framework, Applicant respectfully submits that assuming *arguendo* that the references may be combined and a reasonable expectation of success exists, the combined references do not disclose or suggest all of the claim features. Claim 10, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

a pick-up (3) which generates reset signals *by a steady detection of the currents in the cable* (Emphasis Added)

Neither Kinley nor Anderson disclose, teach, or suggest at least this feature. Kinley discloses a counter reset circuit 53 which generates a positive pulse on BC₁₁, thereby resetting binary counter 51 (Kinley, Col. 4, lines 60-61). However, the counter reset circuit 53 generates a pulse when power is “first applied to the circuit board” (Kinley, Col. 4, line 59), NOT *by a steady detection of the currents in the cable*, as required by the presently claimed subject matter. Thus, Kinley fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least this feature recited in claim 10.

Also, it is clear that the secondary reference, Anderson, does not disclose, teach, or suggest this feature either.

Because none of Kinley and Anderson disclose, teach, or suggest the “pick-up which generates reset signals by a steady detection of the currents in the cable,” even the combined references do not disclose every claimed feature. Thus, claim 10 is not obvious over Kinley and Anderson, whether taken alone or in combination, and therefore, allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 10.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 12 and 13 have not been amended because Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12 and 13 depend from allowable base claim 10, as amended, and are allowable for at least this reason.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 15-17 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

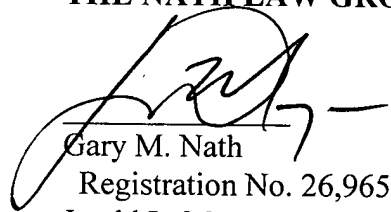
Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

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